

[25th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

consumer goods are now under the OGL and are being imported freely and are therefore, available in the domestic market, all over the country.

(c) The officers of Goa Commissionerate and DRI are ever vigilant and alert to thwart any attempt of smuggling at the Goa Airport.

Smuggling of Mobile Phones

219. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs Air Intelligence Unit has arrested five Delhi based passengers for smuggling 115 mobile phones worth Rs. 6.3 lakh at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai on 28th May 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The officers of Air Intelligence Unit, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai have seized 115 mobile phones collectively valued at Rs. 6.30 lakhs in two separate cases, from 5 lady passengers on 27.5.2000, who had arrived at Mumbai as domestic passenger from Delhi. In both the cases, mobile phones were found on the person, ingeniously concealed in specially made white coloured "pyjamas" worn by the lady passengers, under their saris/salwars.

(c) The mobile phones recovered have been seized under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962. All the five lady passengers were also arrested, and produced before the judicial magistrate and have since been enlarged on bail.

Decline in Foreign Exchange Reserves

†220. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been decline in the foreign exchange reserve in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to take any steps to earn more foreign exchange; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.